

A B E

ABECEDA'RIAN. *n. f.* [from the names of *a, b, c*, the three first letters of the alphabet.] He that teaches or learns the alphabet, or first rudiments of literature.

This word is used by *Wood* in his *Athenæ Oxonienses*, where mentioning *Farnaby* the critic, he relates, that, in some part of his life, he was reduced to follow the trade of an *abecedarian* by his misfortunes.

ABECEDARY. *adj.* [See **ABECEDARIAN.**]

1. Belonging to the alphabet.
2. Inscribed with the alphabet.

This is pretended from the sympathy of two needles touched with the loadstone, and placed in the center of two *abecedary* circles, or rings of letters, described round about them, one friend keeping one, and another the other, and agreeing upon an hour wherein they will communicate.

Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii. c. 2.

ABE'D. *adv.* [from *a*, for *at*. See (*A*.) and *BED.*] In bed.

It was a shame for them to mar their complexions, yea and conditions too, with long lying *abe'd*: and that, when she was of their age, she trowed, she would have made a handkerchief by that time o' day.

Sidney, b. ii.

She has not been *abe'd*, but in her chapel
All night devoutly watch'd, and brid'd the faints
With prayers for her deliverance.

Dryd. Span. Friar.

ABERR'ANCE. *n. f.* [from *aberro*, Lat.] To wander from the right way.] A deviation from the right way; an error; a mistake; a false opinion.

Could a man be compos'd to such an advantage of constitution, that it should not at all adulterate the images of his mind; yet this second nature would alter the crafts of his understanding, and render it as obnoxious to *aberrances*, as now.

Glanville's Scæpsi Scientifica, c. 16.

ABERRANCY. The same with **ABERRANCE.**
They do not only swarm with errors, but vices depending thereon. Thus they commonly affect no man any farther than he defects his reason, or complies with their *aberrancies*.

Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i. c. 3.

ABERRANT. *adj.* [from *aberrans*, Lat.] Deviating, wandering from the right or known way.

Diët.

ABERRATION. *n. f.* [from *aberratio*, Lat.] The act of deviating from the common track.

And if it be a mistake, it is only so; there is no hereby in such an harmless *aberration*; at the worst, with the ingenious, the probability of it will render it a lapse of easy pardon.

Glanville's Scæpsi Scientifica, c. 11.

ABERRING. *part.* [from the verb *aberr*, of *aberro*, Lat.] Wandering, going astray.

Though there were a fatality in this year, yet divers were, and others might be, out in their account, *aberring* several ways from the true and just compute, and calling that one year, which perhaps might be another.

Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv. c. 12.

Of the verb *aberr* I have found no example.
TO ABERUN'ATE. *v. a.* [from *aberruncare*, Lat.] To pull up by the roots; to extirpate utterly.

Diët.

TO ABE'T. *v. a.* [from *abecan*, Sax. signifying to enkindle or animate.] To push forward another, to support him in his designs by connivance, encouragement, or help. It is generally taken, at least by modern writers, in an ill sense; as may be seen in **ABETTER.**

To *abet* signifieth, in our common law, as much as to encourage or set on.

Cowel.

Then shall I soon, quoth he, return again,
Abet that virgin's cause disconsolate,
And shortly back return unto this place,
To walk this way in pilgrim's poor estate.

Fairy Q. b. i.

A widow who by solemn vows,
Contracted to me, for my spouse,
Combin'd with him to break her word,
And has *abetted* all.

Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 3.

Men lay so great weight upon their being of right opinions, and their eagerness of *abetting* them, that they account that the unum necessarium.

Decay of Piety.

In the reign of king Charles the first, though that prince was married to a daughter of France, and was personally beloved and esteemed in the French court; it is well known that they *abetted* both parties in the civil war, and always furnished supplies to the weaker side, least there should be an end put to these fatal divisions.

Addison's Freeholder, N° 28.

ABETMENT. *n. f.* The act of *abetting*.
ABETTER, or **ABETTOR.** *n. f.* He that *abets*; the supporter or encourager of another.

You shall be still plain *Torrimond* with me,
Th' *abettor*, partner, (if you like the name)
The husband of a tyrant, but no king;
Till you deserve that title by your justice.

Dryden's Spanish Friar.

Whilst this sin of calumny has two such potent *abettors*, we are not to wonder at its growth: as long as men are malicious and designing, they will be traducing. *Govern. of the Tongue.*

These and the like considerations, though they may have no influence on the headstrong unruly multitude, ought to sink

A B I

into the minds of those who are their *abettors*, and who, if they escape the punishment here due to them, must very well know, that these several mischiefs will be one day laid to their charge.

Addison's Freeholder, N° 50.

ABEY'ANCE. *n. f.* [from the French *abeyer*, *allatrar*, to bark at.] This word, in *Littleton*, cap. *Discontinuance*, is thus used. The right of fee-simple lieth in *abeyance*, when it is all only in the remembrance, intendment, and consideration of the law. The frank tenement of the glebe of the parsonage, is in no man during the time that the parsonage is void, but is in *abeyance*.

Cowel.

ABGREGA'TION. *n. f.* [*abgregatio*, Lat.] A separation from the flock.

Diët.

TO ABHO'R. *v. a.* [*abhorreo*, Lat.] To hate with acrimony; to detest to extremity; to loath.

Whilst I was big in clamour, came there a man,
Who having seen me in my worful state,
Shunn'd my *abhor'd* society.

Shakepear's K. Lear.

To whom thus Michael: Justly thou *abhor'st*

That son, who on the quiet state of men
Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue
Rational liberty.

Milt. Parad. Lost, b. xii. l. 79.

The self-same thing they will *abhor*
One way, and long another for.

Hudibras, p. i. cant. 1.

A church of England man *abhors* the humour of the age, in delighting to fling scandals upon the clergy in general; which, besides the disgrace to the reformation, and to religion itself, cast an ignominy upon the kingdom that it doth not deserve.

Swift on the Sentiments of a Church of England man.

ABHOR'RENCE. *n. f.* [from *abhor*.]

1. The act of abhorring, detestation.
It draws upon him the just and universal hatred and *abhorrence* of all men here; and, finally, subjects him to the wrath of God, and eternal damnation hereafter.
2. The disposition to abhor, hatred.

South's Sermon.

He knew well that even a just and necessary offence does, by giving men acquaintance with war, take off somewhat from the *abhorrence* of it, and infensibly dispose them to farther hostilities.

Decay of Piety.

ABHOR'RENCY. *n. f.* The same with **ABHOR'RENCE.**

The first tendency to any injustice that appears, must be suppressed with a show of wonder and *abhorrency* in the parents and governors.

Locke on Education, § 110.

ABHOR'RENT. *adj.* [from *abhor*.]

1. Struck with abhorrence.
For if the worlds
In worlds inclos'd would on his senses burst,
He would *abhorrent* turn.

Thomson's Summer, l. 310.

2. Contrary to, foreign, inconsistent with. It is used with the particles *from* or *to*, but more properly with *from*.

This I conceive to be an hypothesis, well worthy a rational belief; and yet is it so *abhorrent* from the vulgar, that they would as soon believe *Anaxagoras*, that snow is black, as him that should affirm it is not white; and if any should in effect assert, that the fire is not formally hot, it would be thought that the heat of his brain had fitted him for *Anticyp*, and that his head were so to madness.

Glanville's Scæpsi Scient. c. 12.

Why then these foreign thoughts of state employments,
Abhorrent to your function and your breeding?
Poor droning truants of unpractis'd cells,
Bred in the fellowship of beardless boys,
What wonder is it if you know not men?

Dryden's Don Sebastian.

ABHOR'RER. *n. f.* [from *abhor*.] The person that *abhors*; a hater, detester.

The representatives of the lower clergy were rail'd at, for disputing the power of the bishops, by the known *abhorers* of episcopacy, and abused for doing nothing in the convocations, by these very men who wanted to bind up their hands.

Swift's Examiner, N° 21.

ABHOR'RING. The object of abhorrence. This seems not to be the proper use of the participial noun.

And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched, and they shall be an *abhorring* unto all flesh.

Isaiah, lxvi. 44.

TO ABIDE. *v. n.* I abide or abid. [from *abidan*, or *abidian*, Sax.]

1. To dwell in a place, not remove.
Thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, if I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. Now therefore I pray thee, let thy servant *abide* instead of the lad, a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.
2. To dwell.

Gen. xlv. 32, 33.

The Marquis Dorset, as I hear, is fled
To Richmond, in the parts where he *abides*.

Shakepear. Richard III.

3. To remain, not cease or fail.

They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but *abideth* for ever.

Psalms cxxv. 1.

4. To

A B J

4. To continue in the same state.
The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall *abide* satisfied.

Prov. xix. 23.

Those who apply themselves to learning, are forced to acknowledge one God, incorruptible and unbegotten; who is the only true being, and *abides* for ever above the highest heavens, from whence he beholds all the things that are done in heaven and earth.

Stillingfl. Defence of Desc. on Rom. Idolat.

There can be no study without time; and the mind must *abide* and dwell upon things, or be always a stranger to the infide of them.

South.

5. To wait for, expect, attend, wait upon, await; used of things prepared for persons, as well as of persons expecting things.

Home is he brought, and laid in sumptuous bed,
Where many skilful leeches him *abide*,
To save his hurts.

Fairy Queen, b. i. cant. 5. stanza. 17.

While lions war, and battle for their dens,
Poor harmless lambs *abide* their enmity.

Shakepear. Hen. VI. p. 3.

6. To bear or support the consequences of a thing.
Ah me! they little know
How dearly I *abide* that boast to vain.

Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv. l. 87.

To bear or support, without being conquered or destroyed.
But the Lord he is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: At his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to *abide* his indignation.

Jer. x. 10.

It must be allowed a fair presumption in favour of the truth of my doctrines, that they have *abid* a very rigorous test now for above thirty years, stand yet firm; and the longer and more strictly they are look'd into, the more they are confirmed to this very day.

Woodward, Letter i.

8. To bear without aversion; in which sense it is commonly used with a negative.
Thou can'st not *abide* Tiridates; this is but love of thyself.

Sidney, b. ii.

Though thou didst learn, had that in't, which good natures Could not *abide* to be with; therefore wait thou
Defervely confin'd into this rock.

Shakepear. Temp.

9. To bear or suffer.
That chief (rejoind' the God) his race derives
From Ithaca, and wondrous woes survives;
Laertes' son: girt with circumfluous tides
He still calamitous constraint *abides*.

Pope's Odyssey, b. iv. l. 750.

10. It is used with the particle *with* before a person, and at or in before a place.

It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: *Abide* with me.

Gen. xxix. 19.

For thy servant vowed a vow, while I *abode* at Gethur in Syria, saying, if the Lord shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.

2 Sam. xv. 3.

11. It is used with *by* before a thing; as, to *abide* by his testimony; to *abide* by his own skill; that is, to *rely upon* them; to *abide* by an opinion; to *maintain* it; to *abide* by a man, is also, to *defend* or *support* him. But these forms are something low.

Of the participle *abid*, I have found only the example in *Woodward*.

ABID'ER. *n. f.* [from *abide*.] The person that *abides* or dwells in a place; perhaps that lives or endures. A word little in use.

ABID'ING. *n. f.* [from *abide*.] Continuance.

We are strangers before thee and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none *abiding*.

1 Chron. xxix. 15.

The air in that region is so violently removed, and carried about with such swiftness, as nothing in that place can consist or have *abiding*.

Rawleigh's History of the World.

ABJECT. *adj.* [*abjectus*, Lat. thrown away as of no value.]

1. Mean, or worthless, spoken of persons.
That rebellion
Came like itself in base and *abject* routs,
Led on by bloody youth goaded with rage,
And countenanc'd by boys and beggary.

Shakepear. Hen. IV.

Honest men, who tell their sovereigns what they expect from them, and what obedience they shall be always ready to pay them, are not upon an equal foot with such base and *abject* flatterers; and are therefore always in danger of being the last in the royal favour.

Addison's Whig Examiner.

2. Contemptible, or of no value; used of things.
I was at first, as other beasts that graze
The trodden herb, of *abject* thoughts and low.

Milt. Paradise Lost, b. ix. l. 571.

3. Without hope or regard; used of condition.
The rarer thy example stands,
By how much from the top of wondrous glory,
Strongest of mortal men,
To lowest pitch of *abject* fortune thou art fall'n.

Milton's Samson Agonistes.

We see man and woman in the highest innocence and perfection, and in the most *abject* state of guilt and infirmity.

Addison's Spectator, N° 273.

VOL. I.

A B J

4. Destitute, mean and despicable; used of actions.
To what base ends, and by what *abject* ways,
Are mortals urg'd thro' sacred lust of praise?

Pope's Essay on Criticism.

The rapine is so *abject* and profane,
They not from trifles, nor from gods refrain.

Dryden's Juvenal, Sat. 8.

ABJECT. *n. f.* A man without hope; a man whose miseries are irretrievable.

But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the *abjects* gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not.

Psalms xxxv. 15.

TO ABJECT. *v. a.* [*abjicio*, Lat.] To throw away. A word rarely used.

ABJECTNESS. *n. f.* [from *abject*.] The state of an *abject*.
He would love at no less rate than death; and, from the supereminent height of glory, stooped and abased himself to the sufferance of the extremest of indignities, and sunk himself to the bottom of *abjectness*, to exalt our condition to the contrary extreme.

Boyle's Works.

ABJECTION. *n. f.* [from *abject*.] Meanness of mind; want of spirit; servility; baseness.

That this should be termed baseness, *abjection* of mind, or servility, is it credible?

Hooker, b. v. § 47.

Now the just medium of this case lies betwixt the pride and the *abjection*, the two extremes.

L'Estrange.

ABJECTLY. *adv.* [from *abject*.] In an *abject* manner, meanly, basely, servilely, contemptibly.

ABJECTNESS. *n. f.* [from *abject*.] The same with *abjection*; servility, meanness.

Servility and *abjectness* of humour is implicitly involved in the charge of lying; the condescending to that, being a mark of a dissingenuous spirit.

Government of the Tongue, § 8.

By humility I mean not the *abjectness* of a base mind: but a prudent care not to over-value ourselves upon any account.

Grew's Cosmologia Sacra, b. ii. c. 7.

ABILITY. *n. f.* [*Abilitas*, Fr.]

1. The power to do any thing, whether depending upon skill, or riches, or strength, or any other quality.
Of singing thou hast got the reputation,
Good Thyrils, mine I yield to thy *ability*;

Sidney, b. i.

My heart doth seek another estimation.
If aught in my *ability* may serve
To heighten what thou suffer'st, and appease
Thy mind with what amends is in my power.

Milton's Samson Agonistes, l. 744.

They gave after their *ability* unto the treasure of the work.

Ezra ii. 69.

If any man minister, let him do it as of the *ability* which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet. iv. 11.

2. Capacity.
Children in whom there was no blemish, but well-favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had *ability* in them to stand in the king's palace.

Dan. i. 4.

3. When it has the plural number, *abilities*, it frequently signifies the faculties or powers of the mind, and sometimes the force of understanding given by nature, as distinguished from acquired qualifications.

Wherever we find our *abilities* too weak for the performance, he assures us of the assistance of his holy spirit. *Roger's Sermons.*

Whether it may be thought necessary, that in certain tracts of country, like what we call parishes, there should be one man, at least, of *abilities* to read and write?

Swift's Arguments against abolishing Christianity.